

# The Eagle's Eye

125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard



Spring 2002

Volume 2, Issue 1



## 2002: Year of Diversity

*Our diversity is our strength*

**Inside**



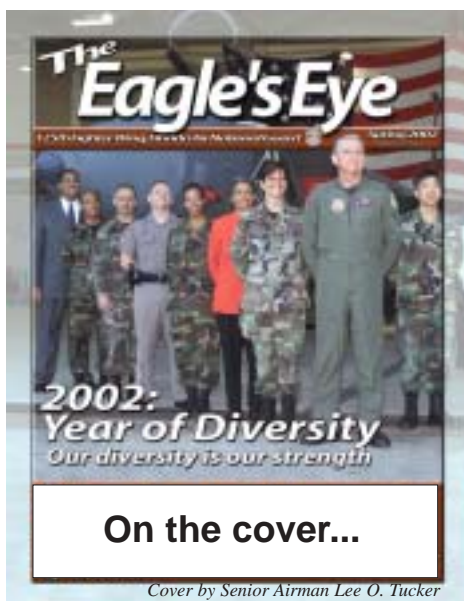
*Augmentees help  
keep security top  
priority*



*FANG's Finest First*



*Guarding America's  
Endeavour*



Cover by Senior Airman Lee O. Tucker

Members of the 125th Fighter Wing show their "true colors." A diverse spectrum of people from a wide variety of professions serve in the 125th. Colonel Charles V. Ickes, II 125th Fighter Wing commander(second from right) is flanked by his vice commander, Col. Jeanette B. Booth (third from right), and several other members of the 125th family.

Wing Commander  
Col. Charles V. Ickes II

Editorial Staff  
Maj. Julia A. Kyrakis  
Maj. Richard E. Bittner  
Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Layout and Design  
Maj. Julia A. Kyrakis  
Maj. Richard E. Bittner  
Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Graphics & Cover Design  
Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers  
Senior Airman Lee O. Tucker

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# Commander's Column

By Col. Charles V. Ickes, II  
125th Fighter Wing Commander



## *The Year of Diversity*

**D**iversity is an organizational tasking designed to capitalize on the changing demographics in our society. This is accomplished by valuing differences and similarities among people. The Guard Bureau has designated the year 2002 as the Year of Diversity. The year-long endeavor is designed to reinforce the efforts to realize the full potential of all our people, ultimately increasing mission readiness and supporting the best talent to achieve our goals.

The leadership of the 125<sup>th</sup> has worked hard over the last few years to develop a diverse organization that is relevant, successful and ready to meet any tasking at home or abroad.

Our belief is that a unit that trains at the highest levels will be more successful and ultimately, more responsive. When goals are lofty individuals tend to step up their efforts to achieve. Our unit has certainly witnessed that. The most rewarding thing to me since Sept. 11 is how every function of the Wing has stepped up to meet the challenge.

We could not have gotten to where we are today without the support and efforts of every section. More and more we all realize how critical every function is in making the Wing as effective as possible. This is not a revolutionary idea or an original thought, but it is critical for everyone to understand. Every job has worth and this has never been more evident than in the last six months.

The key to success in the future will be attitude, communication and understanding our role in Noble Eagle, Air Expeditionary Force and any other mission the state or nation deems necessary.

First and foremost, what we are accomplishing is important and honorable. There is no higher calling than "defending this nation against all enemies foreign and

domestic." The 125<sup>th</sup> has more than 600 personnel who are accepting this challenge on a daily basis.

Attitude will go a long way to meeting the task at hand and doing it safely and effectively.

Since Sept. 11 many of our lives have taken a dramatic turn, one that none of us predicted.

Communication is critical to success. Where communication is missing rumor often fills the void. Wing leadership is tasked and committed to communicate at every level.

Late in the evening on Sept. 11 I tasked the staff with making this mission happen and ensuring the unit would be even better when it ends. I feel that the pieces are in place to make this happen.

We have so many great people accomplishing the mission and gaining valuable experience.

This experience will pay dividends well into the future. It is great to see all of the Drill Status Guardsmen who have rapidly blended with the full-time force, making a lasting impact on the unit. I can't emphasize how proud I am of each of you individually and collectively.

We remain the highest tasked F-15 unit in the Guard and we have accomplished 100 percent of our Noble Eagle missions. You should all be very proud of what you are accomplishing.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank Col. Jeanette Booth for her incredible contributions to this unit. As many of you know she has been selected to be the next ESSO at State Headquarters. Colonel Booth has risen through the ranks in this organization and has had a major impact at every level.

She encompasses the best the military has to offer: a superb work ethic, undeniable integrity, love of the mission and a superb attitude.

Her wise counsel and personal friendship have been invaluable to me. Although she will depart our wing family, the gifts she gave us will remain for years to come.

***"You should all be very proud of what you are accomplishing."***

***- Col. Charles V. Ickes, II***

*Few active duty and even fewer Air National Guard pilots have the distinction of accumulating 3,000 hours in the F-15.*



## FANG's finest first

*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

*By Maj. Julia A. Kyrakis  
125<sup>th</sup> Operations Group*

After 17 years in the F-15 Eagle and more than 2,700 take-offs and landings, the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing' Chief of Safety, Lt. Col. T.G. "Krazy" Kyrakis II, became the first pilot in the Florida Air National Guard to amass 3,000 hours in the F-15.

Only 23 other "Eagle Drivers" in the world share the achievement and of those, only five are members of the Air National Guard.

To mark the occasion, the 125<sup>th</sup> Operations Group Commander, Lt. Col. Alan K. Rutherford, designated Feb. 8, 2002 as Kyrakis' projected 3000-hour day and commenced plans for a celebration commensurate with the size of the accomplishment.

Since Kyrakis is a big Jacksonville Jaguar's football fan, Rutherford set the process in motion to have NFL quarterback Mark Brunell fly with Kyrakis when he reached his 3000<sup>th</sup> hour.

Kyrakis was thrilled to share the spotlight with Brunell.

"I joined the unit after they converted to the F-15 Eagle, which was about the same time-frame as the Jaguars were starting up in Jacksonville. Our commander had his aircraft painted with the Jaguar logo, so it seemed to me that F-15's, Jacksonville, and the Jaguars were always linked. Having Mark Brunell, the player who epitomizes the Jaguars, fly with me on this occasion made it all that more special."

Kyrakis categorized Brunell as "fighter pilot" caliber and was very impressed with his reaction to his first F-15 flight.

"You find people in all walks of life that you feel would have made great fighter pilots had they chosen that path," Kyrakis said. He elaborated, "It's their confidence, professionalism, and drive that serves them well; whether in the hostile skies over Iraq, or the hostile field of play at Heinz stadium. Having

the privilege to spend an hour with Mark Brunell in the F-15, I can tell he would have excelled as a fighter pilot, as he has excelled in his chosen profession."

He went on to say, "I have given many incentive and familiarization flights to many

***"Having Mark Brunell, the player who epitomizes the Jaguars, fly with me on this occasion, made it all that more special."***

***-Lt. Col. T.G. Kyrakis***



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

Technical Sgt. Guy E. Reinecke (center), crew chief for the Wing Commander's aircraft, came out on his off day to help launch Lt. Col. T. G. Kyrakis (left) and Mark Brunell (right).

different types of people; civilian and military, pilots and non-flyers, sports figures and political dignitaries alike. And I can easily say that this was the most enjoyable, not only because of the occasion, but also because of the total comfort Mark displayed in the back seat."

Following his flight with Brunell, Kyrakis received recognition from Boeing (the current F-15 manufacturer) and the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing.

The Wing Commander, Col. Charles V. Ickes, II lauded Kyrakis' achievement, "To reach 3000 hours flying anything is a remarkable accomplishment, but to do it as safely and professionally as Lt. Col. Kyrakis has is truly



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

Mark Brunell signs a football for Lt Col. T. G. Kyrakis following the quarterback's familiarization flight in the F-15 Eagle.

amazing. He has been a great asset for the unit and the entire CAF (Combat Air Forces)."

Kyrakis has managed to spend his entire career flying the F-15, a major feat in itself.

The top graduate in his 1984 undergraduate pilot training class of 60 at Williams AFB, Ariz., he had his choice of aircraft.

Since he dreamed of flying fighter jets from the time he was in high school, he chose the F-15.

Following initial F-15 training at Tyndall AFB, Fla., he continued his career with the 59<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla.

He returned to Tyndall as an instructor pilot with the 2nd Tactical Fighter Training Squadron.

While at Tyndall, he was selected for and graduated from the prestigious Fighter Weapons School at Nellis AFB, Nev., in 1989.

Kyrakis then spent two years with the 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron at Keflavik NAS, Iceland.

He joined the Florida Air National Guard in 1997 following a final active duty tour with the 422nd Test and Development Squadron at Nellis.

Kyrakis hopes he has not just experienced the pinnacle of his career. "At this rate, I can reach 4,000 hours in less than six years—that'd really be something. Maybe I'll be the first!"



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

Lieutenant Col. T.G. Kyrakis' family watches him taxi his aircraft. From left (all Kyrakis): mother, Janice; niece and nephew, Sloane and Teo; son and daughter, Kyle and Leigha.

***"To reach 3000 hours flying anything is a remarkable accomplishment, but to do it as safely and professionally as Lt Col. Kyrakis has is truly amazing."***

***- Col. Charles V. Ickes, II***

# Guard, Reserve not forgotten by top leaders

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
**125<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs**



*Air Force Link file photo*

A member of the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing attended a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington D.C. March 6 that focused on the fiscal 2003 defense budget.

Senior Master Sgt. Mark A. Penwell, a contract specialist here who at the time was enrolled in an executive contracting class in Crystal City, Va., attended the hearings for a day on Capital Hill. The trip gave the class a bird's eye view of Congress in action.

Each class member chose to attend one of 30 hearings scheduled that day.

Penwell attended a hearing pertaining to the fiscal 2003 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill. During the hearing, General John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, asked Congress for more money and more troops. Jumper's proposed budget boost came about as a consequence of the increased missions of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Another concern was the aging Air Force aircraft inventories that include 30-year-old fighters and 40-year-old refuelers.

Although Congress wants the Air Force to have the appropriations for a modernization program, they also want the Air Force to be creative and innovative in the procurement of new aircraft. The possibility of leasing refuelers for ten years to modernize the fleet was also

debated.

According to Penwell, members of the Senate were very appreciative of the military—specifically the sacrifices Guard and Reserve members make.

"They understand the hardship of being away from home, missing holidays, missing important dates, birth of children, birthdays and anniversaries," said Penwell. "It was great to see that the people at the top care. The amazing thing was that Congress wanted to give the Air Force more money than what they were asking."

Jumper also identified the Guard and Reserve as needing a boost by asking Congress to increase its manning by adding 6000 more personnel. Guard and Reserve forces exist to "plus up" when the military needs a surge in its numbers, according to Jumper. Currently, with the active duty manning at a low, they cannot accomplish all their missions without the Guard and Reserve.

Guard and Reserve forces are deployed overseas for Operation Enduring Freedom as well for Operation Noble Eagle—the current homeland defense mission.

"It was a great experience to see how Congress works," said Penwell. "I recommend that all Americans attend a hearing in Washington D.C. to see first hand the workings of our government."

# How do you say good-bye?

By Chaplain (Lt. Col) Larry E. Elliott

*Chaplain Larry Elliott retires from the Florida Air National Guard in April after more than 30 years of distinguished service. He retires as the longest-serving chaplain in Florida Air National Guard history. Elliott's legacy of a ministry built from the ground up will be with us for many years to come. His testimony of commitment to others, compassion for those less fortunate, and self-sacrifice for a greater good serves as a shining light of faith, hope and love. What a wonderful testimony!*



Photo by Tech Sgt. Lawrence J. Show

**L**ike many others who reach retirement age, I knew one day I would be in this position. I knew I would come to the end of my ministry as the chaplain for the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing.

How do you say good-bye to so many who have meant so much to your life?

My feelings run deep. I feel both sad and happy. Sad that I am leaving many of my friends, but happy to cross a new horizon—one filled with new adventures, new opportunities and new challenges.

I find it hard to describe my sincere feelings of joy and satisfaction serving as your chaplain for the past 30 plus years.

You have thrilled my soul with your unselfish and generous support of "Operation Christmas Stocking."

You have thrilled the hearts of many distraught and needy boys and girls.

You have listened to my sermons and graciously responded with kind words.

You have encouraged me when the way was rough and laughed with me when I was filled with joy.

We fought the battles when called upon by our commander and won the battles when we were called on by our "Commander-In-Chief."

Without a doubt, God blessed us as an outstanding unit and made us the best Fighter Wing in the Air National Guard.

I beam with pride, because I have had the privilege of being a part of your lives.

I will always be proud of serving my country and serving with you.

How do I say good-bye? I say it with my heart.

Thank you for being you and for sharing your life with me.

May God bless you as you have blessed me.

## Magician's 'sleight of hand' talent spreads gospel word



By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125th Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. James A. Kelley, a 125th Medical Squadron medical technician, shows Eric T. Carnavale, 9, one of the card tricks he presented during the January UTA Chapel service.

At the age of seven, 125<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron public health technician, Staff Sgt. James A. Kelley, discovered he had a unique talent.

At his family's house in Winfield, Kan., he would lay across two chairs he placed on the living room floor. As family members watched, Kelley magically floated in the air, wowing the small audience gathered in the family home and marking the start of a life-long interest in creating illusions.

After years of practicing at home and reading various magic books, Kelley decided his talent for illusion could be used for more than just entertainment. He wanted to preach the

*Continued on page 15*

Photo by Senior Airman Shelley R. Gill

# Black Airmen Appreciation Day



JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

WHEREAS, prior to World War II there were no African-American pilots in the Army Air Forces (AAF) or its immediate predecessor, the Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, the AAF resisted previous efforts to enlist black airmen with the claim that there were no black pilots in the United States; there was a prevailing belief within the War Department and the AAF in general that black males lacked the aptitude to be military pilots; and

WHEREAS, it was not until the passage of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 and pressure exerted from the black community that the AAF along with other military services were required to enlist black males in proportion to their total population percentage (about 10 percent); and

WHEREAS, the act prohibited discrimination by race or color in the selecting and training of all males for the armed services; reacting almost immediately to this new act, the War Department issued its own policy that stipulated, "the services of Negroes will be utilized on a fair and equitable basis"; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the AAF was instructing only a small number of African-American air cadets at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, under its Civilian Pilot Training Program; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of basic training and advanced training that combined aerobatics and gunnery, these African-American male air cadets, better known as the "Tuskegee Airmen," were assigned to the newly created 99th Pursuit Squadron that was based at nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field; and

WHEREAS, following the combat success of the 99th, more African-American male AAF units such as the 100<sup>th</sup>, 301<sup>st</sup> and 302<sup>nd</sup> Squadrons subsequently formed, trained and entered into aerial combat in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations in Europe; African-American men were also trained in other areas such as base security detachments, aviation quartermaster truck companies and airbase transportation platoons; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Army Air Forces policy governing race and the combat histories of the African-American 99th Fighter Squadron and other units, as documented in the Records of the Army Air Forces, should never be forgotten;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the state of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 28, 2002, as *Black Airmen Appreciation Day* in Florida and call its significance to the attention of all citizens during Black History Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I  
have hereunto set my hand  
and caused the Great Seal of  
the state of Florida to be affixed  
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this  
26<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year  
of our Lord two thousand two.

  
GOVERNOR



# Celebrating the American spirit

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125th Public Affairs



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

Dorothy "Dottie" Maney-Kellum (left) holds up a State of Florida Christmas ornament similar to the one designed to hang on one of the many Christmas trees the Whitehouse displays each year. Major Kathie I. Wyant, Agency Director of Equal Opportunity (right), presented the gift on behalf of the Florida Guard.

***"What a wonderful thing it is to see people throughout our history who looked at things that couldn't be done because of the culture at the time and said 'wait a minute, I'm not going to accept that!' We're celebrating the achievements of African Americans and Women. Most of all, we're celebrating the people who said I'm going to excel despite the obstacles."***

*Colonel Joseph G. Balskus, Chief of Staff, FLANG*

The months of February and March are set aside each year to recognize the achievements of two groups of Americans whose struggle has had a vital role in shaping American ideals. African Americans and women have fought for years to attain the freedoms that our forefathers guaranteed to all in the Constitution. Now, as the Florida Air and Army National Guard celebrate 2002 as the "Year of Diversity", the historical triumphs these two groups have achieved are pushed to the forefront as reminders of how important individual freedoms are in a democratic society.

The numerous accomplishments of both blacks and women were honored during a luncheon held March 26 at the Robert F. Ensslin Armory in St. Augustine, Fla. The guest speaker was Dorothy "Dottie" Maney-Kellum, a

senior instructor/trainer, for the Civilian Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Training at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick AFB, Fla.

Maney-Kellum discussed the strides that both groups have made and how those accomplishments have worked in sustaining the American spirit.

Women who get up each day and "feed their children, dress them, send them off to school, and still work one or two jobs so that their children have warmth and shelter food and clothing" are the women who, according to Maney-Kellum, sustain the American spirit.

And, Maney-Kellum praised the unwavering pursuit of Blacks to improve their station in life and excel despite a culture that, at times, worked against them.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Jennifer Carroll, the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, speaks to members of the 125th Fighter Wing during a luncheon celebrating Black History Month held Feb. 28 in the Wing dining facility. Carroll spoke to the group about the many contributions of black americans and how their sacrifice and service has played a vital role in America's defense.

# What's next?

## We're ready!

By Lt. Col. Robert M. Branyon  
159th Fighter Squadron

**I**t's 5:30 am, and we've been "CAPing" (Combat Air Patrol) over Kennedy Space Center since 2 a.m. That's three and a half hours into our four-hour mission...

Photo by Col. Joseph K. Martin

The briefing was at midnight. Show time at the squadron: 11:30 p.m.

Somewhere during the previous day we were supposed to get "adequate crew rest" for the mission—that's sometimes easier said than done.

I glance down at the Space Shuttle Endeavor, several thousand feet below me, illuminated by the dozens of spotlights focused on its position.

It truly is a national symbol of American innovation, determination and strength.

Sometimes it's hard to remember that when you're flying in the middle of the night; sleepy, bored and restless.

The often quoted job description of an airline pilot is about to ring true for me:

"Hours of boredom separated by moments of sheer terror".

The silence of the night is sharply broken: "Claw 11, Oakgrove has pop-up target, bullseye zero eight zero for 32 miles, low altitude!", describing an unidentified target

***"The often quoted job description of an airline pilot is about to ring true for me: 'Hours of boredom separated by moments of sheer terror'."***

- Lt. Col. Robert M. Branyon

within the restricted airspace, 32 miles east of the Shuttle.

The flight lead immediately announces, "Claw 11 is descending, heading zero eight

zero."

My adrenaline surges momentarily as I contemplate the possibilities of the next few minutes.

It's probably either a friendly aircraft or a false target, but you just never know...

I follow my flight lead, flipping my night vision goggles down into position in front of my eyes, and I roll into a five-mile trail position behind Claw 11. Quickly, we are at low altitude, searching both with our radar and our eyes, as we peer through the grainy-green world of the NVGs.

We find nothing airborne in the area, and Claw 11 identifies the target as a large barge steaming through the water below the restricted airspace. We return to our high-altitude CAP.

At least we had a little excitement for the night! We maintained an air-superiority "presence" over the Shuttle.

March 1, 6:22 a.m., four FANG pilots, to include Wing Commander Col. Charles V. Ickes, II, watch from their "God's eye" view, as the rocket motors of the Space Shuttle Columbia illuminate the predawn sky on its journey into space.

Yes, there are some exciting moments amidst our hours and hours of "Noble Eagle" missions.

We flew over Daytona Beach International airport for several high profile events. We have also participated in CAP's as far north as Washington D.C.

We had pilots screaming toward the kid who flew into the building in downtown Tampa.

We've flown in support of major sporting events, such as football games like the Citrus,

*Continued on next page*

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**“Very few Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units are able to produce this many sorties...”**

**- Lt. Col. Robert M. Branyon**

Orange, and Gator Bowl. The FANG has been repeatedly challenged with the wide-ranging missions since Sept. 11 and each time performed in its standard “exceptional” fashion.

One truly amazing aspect of the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing’s flying operations is our ability to generate extra sorties to allow pilots to practice combat training, in spite of the heavy load of two alert sites and numerous Noble Eagle missions.



Photo by Col. Joseph K. Martin

Very few Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units are able to produce this many sorties to keep their pilots at the highest level of combat capability.

Our maintenance organizations at both Jacksonville and

Detachment 1 at Homestead ARB, Fla. have done a remarkable job generating sorties.

What future tasking awaits the FANG, both short-term and long-term, is anybody’s guess; but there is no doubt—we will be ready!



Photo by Lt. Col. T.G. Kyrakis II

Spruce Creek flyers piloted Varga Kachina aircraft to the 125<sup>th</sup> Mar 14. armed with 16-dozen donuts from the Krispy Kreme shop on International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. Owners, Paul and Jennifer Bellanca are challenging all other Krispy Kreme owners to support local Guard units.

The Bellanca’s great-uncle, Giuseppe Bellanca, founded the Bellanca aircraft corporation which built the Wright-Bellanca “Columbia,” the first aircraft to go across the Atlantic Ocean from east to west in 1927.

## SPRUCE CREEK FLYERS FEED THE TROOPS

Residents of the Spruce Creek “Fly-in” community in Port Orange, Fla., flew to the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing recently to drop off lunch for military personnel on duty.

Flying enthusiasts (from left) Mike Keemar, Geeter Kyrakis, Les Lowman, Bob Riga, Ken Terry and George Kyrakis flew their private aircraft to the airport on Jan. 31.

Spruce Creek residents expressed their appreciation for the significant contribution the 125<sup>th</sup> has made in keeping the skies of Florida safe.

Photo by Maj. Richard E. Bittner



# Guarding America's Endeavour

By Staff Sgt Michelle L. Thomas  
125th Public Affairs

***"To be able to watch the Shuttle Endeavour launch from the vantage point that we were was such a unique and once in a lifetime opportunity. We were so close to it. It was certainly the first time seeing something that dramatic. It stirred up patriotic feelings in all of us."***

- Maj. Sami D. Said

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans have witnessed the emergence of images symbolizing our current endeavor to fight terrorism.

Video footage of fleeing victims, the rubble at Ground Zero and the rebuilding efforts at the Pentagon are daily reminders of our current struggle to restore the safety, security and freedom Americans are accustomed to.

The Space Shuttle Endeavour, America's premier symbol of freedom in space, rocketed toward the heavens Dec. 5 under the protection of F-15 Eagles flying Combat Air Patrol (CAP) missions to support the launch.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have resulted in tighter security at airports, military bases and in the skies above Kennedy Space Center.

Fighters from the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing secured the skies against possible acts of terrorism during the first shuttle mission since Sept. 11.

Pilots at the 125<sup>th</sup> regularly fly CAP missions, but the shuttle launch marked the first time it was such a highly publicized mission, according to Maj. Sami D. Said, one of several pilots who flew during the shuttle launch.

"I don't think anyone has had a mission before Sept. 11 where we were protecting U.S. assets on U.S. soil," stated Said.

The wartime mission of the 125<sup>th</sup> is to provide armed aircraft capable of intercepting, identifying, and if necessary, destroying unknown aircraft that infiltrate U.S. airspace. Since Sept. 11, the 125<sup>th</sup> fighter pilots have been flying Combat

Air Patrol missions in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

"Unlike other CAP flights, it felt like we had more of a defined goal," said Maj. John "Homer" Black, another fighter pilot who was airborne during the launch.

The well-defined goal of supporting the shuttle launch also had well-defined boundaries according to Said.

"There was a defined area as opposed to other CAP missions where you are there for the region," Said stated. "Every CAP mission is very important, but now we were there for a specific asset on the ground."

The unique mission required more planning than most CAP missions because it was the first time a CAP mission was flown under such exceptional circumstances, added Said.

"Our training was already in place to get the job done," Said stated. "It was more about coordinating with the different agencies like the (Federal Aviation Agency) and the Cape Control Agency."

The pilots communicated with the different agencies several times to coordinate "how everybody does their piece of the puzzle," he said. "We talked about who has control of what so command and control issues were huge."

And, once in the air, the fighter pilots had the chance to see the Endeavor launch into space from a location most American's can only dream of.

"To be able to watch the shuttle Endeavour launch from the vantage point that we were was such a unique and once in a lifetime opportunity," remarked Said. "We were so close to it. It was certainly the first time seeing something that dramatic. It stirred up patriotic feelings in all of us. We were proud to be there."



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

# In brief.....

## Chiefs Corner

### *A matter of pride*

*Command Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Wisniewski  
125th Fighter Wing Command Chief*

The Wing held a safety 'down day' Feb. 27 devoting time to the discussion of safety issues.

As I listened to the different briefings, a common theme emerged—most accidents are the result of complacent attitudes.

Skip a step here, skip a step there and eventually, you stop using the necessary technical data all together.

It's when we get sloppy in our work habits that accidents happen.

Having been a first sergeant, I find myself looking at things from a 'first shirt's' perspective.

Sloppy job performance may very well start with our military bearing and appearance.

We let our hair grow a little longer than it should be, put on a few extra pounds, forget to zip up our field jackets and forget to wear our hats when we run out to the car.

We forget that we were trained to stand when an officer approaches our desk.

What does that have to do with safety and accident prevention?

It all boils down to pride and attitude.

When we get sloppy with our personal appearance, wear of the uniform and military bearing, that lackluster attitude carries over to the workplace.

Conversely, when we take pride in our appearance, our military bearing and our military traditions, we will also

take pride in our work performance.

When we take pride in our work performance procedures are not skipped and technical data is used leading to a reduction of accidents and injuries.

## Enlisted National Guard Association of Florida (ENGAF)

*Senior Master Sgt. Sharon C. Ervin  
125th Logistics Squadron*

The Enlisted National Guard Association of Florida held it's 17th annual conference at the Holiday Inn Baymeadows in Jacksonville Feb. 22-23.

Two hundred soldiers and airmen attended.

The following new officers were inducted during the Saturday evening banquet:

*President- Sgt. Maj. Dennis Rhoden (Army)*

*Vice President for Air-Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Conrad (SEADS)*

*Vice President for Army-Sgt. First Class (ret.) Linda Huff (Army)*

*Membership Secretary-Tech.*

*Sgt. Gary Eldridge (SEADS)*

*Secretary-Master Sgt.*

*Carolyn Wingard (Army)*

*Treasurer-Staff Sgt. John Grotheer (Army)*

Past President, Senior Master Sgt. Sharon C. Ervin and Vice President for Air, Master Sgt. Daryl S. Evans thank everyone for their support during their tenure. They also encourage continued support of and participation in professional military associations to ensure all of our voices are heard.

## Company Grade Officer's Council (CGOC)

*1st Lt. Alaric J. Jorgensen  
125th Mission Support Flight*

The 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing has a new organization on base—the Company Grade Officer's Council, or CGOC.

All 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing officers in the rank of 2nd Lt., 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. and Capt. are eligible for membership and encouraged to participate.

The CGOC mission is to provide an organization to promote career development, encourage base and community service activities and establish an environment to enhance professional and social camaraderie among Company Grade Officers.

Whether you're a pilot or a project officer, this is an excellent opportunity to share your experiences and ideas with other junior officers.

If you're interested in learning more about how you can contribute to, and benefit from, the CGOC, please contact Captain Ray Beeson at extension 7073.

**As of June 1, 2002, all individuals using the Chapter 1606 (Reserve GI Bill), will need to call Veterans Affairs (VA) and certify their hours each month. If you do not certify your hours, the VA will not release your payment. Call: 1-877-823-2378.**

*Continued from page 7*

blessings of the Lord through his gift.

During the January UTA, Kelley performed his slight of hand illusions during the protestant service here in the 125th Fighter Wing chapel.

While performing an array of card tricks, Kelley pointed out to the audience the different symbols such as the number six, representing the devil. After a few words about the power that Jesus has, he made the six—the devil—disappear.

Kelley—whose stage name is Damien Black—has two goals in mind when he begins a church magic show.

“One is to reach the lost—the people who don’t know Jesus as their savior,” said Kelley.

He continued, “And the second is to encourage the Christians who know Jesus in their relationship with the Lord. Those are

the two areas that I target.”

Most of the time, Kelley’s message is well received; however, there are some people who may not think a magic show is appropriate for church.

Some may view the slight of hand trickery as a form of black magic which is not what his message is about.

“The problem with witchcraft is that it’s rooted in the idea where we manipulate God to do what we want. Now that’s magic,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven E. Thompson, 125th Fighter Wing chaplain.

“But then there’s sleight of hand where you do unique, scratch your head, ‘gee whiz how did that happen tricks,” said Thompson.

Thompson explained, “And actually, he (Kelley) did that. He captivated the audience’s attention and spread a gospel message at the same time.”

## Operations Security (OPSEC)

*Maj. Steven R. Hilsdon  
Wing OPSEC Officer*

Operational Security (OPSEC) measures are required to protect military operations by preventing the disclosure of logistical, personnel, training, research and development and other support activities in wartime as well as peacetime.

Care must be taken when determining the required degree of secrecy for any project or undertaking. Too much secrecy can be as harmful as too little.

In determining the appropriate level of OPSEC for your section, please consider the following factors:

- Our adversaries must have some knowledge of our capabilities and intentions in order to understand what type of threat we pose as a means of deterrence.
- The general public must be aware our military capabilities to foster recruitment of personnel—to support the military—and to gain public support for national security objectives.
- The military must test emerging systems, procedures, and doctrine in realistic environments.

This makes it very difficult to hide our emerging capabilities.

• All services have to exercise their skills to increase readiness.

• Allies have to share information and exercise jointly to develop interoperability, competence, and mutual trust.

• Public laws, treaties, safety considerations, and international conventions require public disclosure of certain types of information that otherwise would be protected as classified information (e.g., frequency reservations, flight advisories).

Operational Security is a very ‘fluid’ concept that always has to incorporate sound judgment.

Yet, it is also very frustrating. We ask you not to talk about your work, but you read about it in the newspaper.

We ask you not to send any e-mail containing operational information even though you may receive the exact type of information from other units.

Regardless, it is up to everyone to do their part to protect all of those bits and pieces of information that could give our adversaries a potential advantage over our military forces.

Remember, OPSEC awareness is half of the battle; however, it is the ultimate key to safeguarding our military resources.



# Augmentees help keep security top priority

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125th Public Affairs

Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Almost every 125th Fighter Wing member will agree that life has changed since Sept. 11.

Cruise down the main stretch of road leading to the front gate here and you can witness first hand the most obvious change—the change in security.

Barricades, added guards and extended ID checks are the norm now and will more than likely become the mainstay for the next few years.

Another change—maybe not so obvious—is the change in personnel standing vigil at the gate and on the flight line.

Medical technicians, military personnel flight staff and even chaplain assistants have been seen outside of their natural environment, guarding the various security 'hotspots' on the base. As part of the Security Forces Augmentee Program, they put in 12-to-14-hour shifts, armed with M16s and on the lookout for any suspicious activity that could perhaps bring danger.

Technical Sgt. Stephen J. Hendrix, a chaplain's assistant, recently completed a tour as an augmentee. "It was tough working such long hours," said Hendrix. "But knowing that what I was doing was helping keep security a high priority made the whole experience worthwhile. I'd do it again," said Hendrix.

After Sept. 11, 90 percent of the country's military police, not just security forces, were activated," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Kane, a 125th Security Forces combat arms instructor.

"Many of the security forces members here and nationwide were called upon to deploy overseas, resulting in a need for more military policeman," said Kane. "The augmentee program was brought into light for that."

All augmentees must complete a three-day course that includes qualification on the M16. After the course, they are assigned to a flight where they receive On the Job Training

***"It was tough working such long hours. But knowing that what I was doing was helping keep security a high priority made the whole experience worthwhile. I'd do it again."***

**- Tech. Sgt. Stephen J. Hendrix**

*Continued on page 17*

# 125th vice commander makes history

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125th Public Affairs

**L**ong before she joined the Florida Air National Guard and years before becoming the first female vice-commander in the Florida Air National Guard in November 2000, Col. Jeanette B. Booth, 40, wanted to become a doctor—specifically a family practitioner.

However, during college and at the urging of her father, she enrolled in the ROTC program at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore. A choice she regretted at the time.

“Before it came time for me to go to the ROTC ‘boot camp’ I told my mother and father that I wanted to quit,” said Booth. “I decided that I didn’t want to become an officer. I wanted to go to medical school. But my mother convinced me to at least attend the boot camp. I did and although I wanted to quit after the first two weeks, I stayed and found that I loved it.”

Twenty years later, years after almost abandoning the notion of military service, Booth made history by becoming the Florida Air National Guard’s first female line officer to achieve the rank of ‘full-bird’ colonel in FANG history. Booth was ‘pinned’ March 25



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

Colonel Charles V. Ickes II, 125th Fighter Wing commander and Dr. Robert P. Booth, her husband, pinned on Col. Jeanette B. Booth’s new rank March 25, during a pinning ceremony in the Wing dining facility.

in a private ceremony by Col. Charles V. Ickes II, 125th Fighter Wing commander, and Dr. Robert P. Booth, her husband. Booth’s achievement highlights the exceptional strides women have made as the nation celebrates Women’s History month and as the Air National Guard celebrates the year 2002 as the “Year of Diversity.”

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(OJT) before they are allowed ‘on post’ by themselves. The amount of OJT time is determined by their flight commander.

When 13 125<sup>th</sup> Security Forces members recently deployed to Southwest Asia, the need for more people to “step up and meet the challenge” of security forces increased, said Capt. Glenn S. Fannin, 125<sup>th</sup> Security Forces commander.

“We would love to see everyone at least go through the augmentee training classes,” said Fannin.

“If anything, it would increase the security awareness of everyone here.”

Standing guard for 12 to 14 hours a day is a daunting task. But for the augmentees who have volunteered, it’s a task, according to Hendrix, that needs to be done.

“I have a new found appreciation for what those guys do,” he said. “Some people may think waiting in line to have their ID checked is a nuisance, but it’s a necessity. If more people would become augmentees they would realize that right away.”



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

Technical Sgt. Pedro Negron, a communications systems technician for the 125th Communications Flight, stands guard during an augmentee class at the Lawtey Correctional Facility Firing Range. The students used the M16s, ammunition and other equipment to qualify for the Augmentee Program.

# FANG members lobby for education benefits

*By Staff Sgt. Allen P. Roberts  
125th Fighter Wing*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Air National Guardsmen from the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Fla., were invited to the Florida State Capitol Feb. 5 to join other state veteran groups in an informal breakfast with Florida legislators to voice veteran's issues.

Staff Sgt. Raquel Roberts and Staff Sgt. Allen P. Roberts, both information management specialists, represented American Legion Haisley Lynch Post 16 in Gainesville, Fla. The Florida divisions of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled Veterans of America sponsored the event.

Governor Jeb Bush opened the breakfast with a short speech stressing his commitment to veterans.

"My administration, as well

as myself, are behind the needs of Florida's veterans," said Bush during his introduction. He then spent almost an hour interacting with the more than 100 veterans on hand.

Raquel Roberts, commander of Post 16, and her husband, Allen, an executive board member, were on hand to support Florida Senate Bill 128—legislation that will give in-state tuition to members of the Florida National Guard regardless if they have established state residency or not. Currently, there are members of the National Guard who pay out-of-state fees even though they serve in the Florida National Guard.

"As the law reads now, students are good enough to defend the state of Florida but aren't good enough to get in-state tuition at Florida schools," said Raquel Roberts, a pre-law student at the University of Florida. "That just isn't right."

Florida Senate Bill 128 is in the final stages of approval and will have no fiscal cost on any university because the National Guard will pay the entire in-state rate for its members who attend any public college.

"This is a great bill," said Allen P. Roberts, a Journalism and History major at the

University of Florida. "It's a win-win situation."

The breakfast enabled veterans to have an informal sit-down meeting with their representatives to discuss the needs of Florida's veterans.

"We organized this breakfast to give veterans and legislators a chance to connect and focus on what is important to Florida's veterans," said Dyke Shannon, American Legion Department of Florida adjutant.

Currently, the Florida Army and Air National Guard guardsmen attending Florida colleges and receiving in-state tuition must be able to prove they have lived in the state for at least one calendar year. Guardsmen who were not previously Florida residents but currently reside and serve in Florida, don't qualify for in-state tuition until residency is proven.

"A non-resident guardsman would have to pay almost \$250 more per credit hour, which would make attending college your first year just about impossible" said Raquel Roberts. "It just has to make you wonder about the number of those that don't attend school right away and just never make it back after they have their residency."

## Air Guardsman takes charge of local post of largest veterans organization

*By Staff Sgt. Allen P. Roberts  
125th Fighter Wing*

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—A small crowd of 20 University of Florida students and veterans gathered at the American Legion Post 16 in Gainesville, Fla., Jan. 17 to witness a member of the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing take command of a local post of America's largest veteran organization.

Raquel Roberts, 27, a pre-law student at

UF, a veteran of the Air Force and a member the Florida Air National Guard, became the 84<sup>th</sup> commander of Gainesville's Haisley-Lynch American Legion Post 16.

"This is a great and hallowed honor given to me," said Roberts. "This post was formed in 1919 and has remained a benchmark in

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*Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Raquel Roberts*

Staff Sgt. Raquel Roberts (left), commander of the American Legion Post 16 in Gainesville and member of the Florida Air National Guard along with Staff Sgt. Allen B. Roberts, FANG member and executive officer at Post 16, met with Governor Jeb Bush while attending an informal breakfast in Tallahassee, Fla.. The FANG members and representatives from other state veteran groups met with state legislators Feb. 5 to voice veteran's issues.

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the veterans community since then, and will continue to be for a long time. I'm just proud to be a part of it."

Roberts, an information management specialist for the 125th Public Affairs office, was sworn in during a short ceremony held at the local post on N.W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Gainesville, Fla.

"It's not often we have such a young group on hand to swear in a commander," said Larry White, 61, American Legion Department of Florida District Commander.

"These young folks are our leaders of the future and I'm glad to see them being elected to leadership positions."

Roberts will take command of one of the oldest American Legion Posts in the state and is motivated to have her post help veterans in any way it can.

"This organization was founded for veterans to benefit veterans," said Roberts.

"They lobbied for the Montgomery G.I. Bill, which enables tens of thousands of veterans like me to go to school every year. It is one of the top ten largest lobbying groups in Washington."

There are more than 120,000 legionnaires in the state of Florida.

There are close to 40 college students who are members of Post 16. The number is growing every year because of the expanding student veteran population in Gainesville.

"Veterans get out of the military every day," said Johnny Bradley, 29, Post 16 Sergeant-At-Arms and student at Santa Fe Community College. "We have a great situation to attract new members here because veterans come here to go to school every semester."

The diversity in the American Legion was well represented at Post 16. There were men and women of all ages and races joined together by one common thread, their love of and service to their country.

# Employers take time out to visit the 125<sup>th</sup>

*By Maj. Richard E. Bittner and  
Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125th Public Affairs*

**F**or many civilians who don't have first hand knowledge of how the military works, what we do day to day may be somewhat of an enigma. It is easy to understand why some people may not be sympathetic to the plight of the men and women who voluntarily give up time away from their civilian jobs, time away from their families and time away from their homes to serve in our nations armed forces.

That is why bridging the gap between what the public thinks and reality is important.

One way that we try to 'bridge the gap' is through recognizing the employers that have members activated in support of the current war on terrorism.

The 125<sup>th</sup> hosted an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve luncheon Feb. 11 in the base dining facility to bridge the information gap.

The luncheon was held to honor employers who support their employees' commitment to serve as members of the Florida Air National Guard (FLANG).

Representatives from Anheuser Busch, Bank of America, United Parcel Service, South Trust, the Jacksonville Sheriffs Office and many other organizations were on hand with their employee (guardsman) to participate in the program.

Since Sept. 11, more than 1300 FLANG members have been activated for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

Approximately 180 personnel have been deployed to locations around the world to fight the war on terrorism.

During the hour-long luncheon, Col. Charles V. Ickes II, commander of the

"He (Gainey's employer) had no idea that we had this much going on. He thought this was just some small base in Jacksonville and had no idea we have the type of aircraft, leadership and people that we do."

The luncheon was sponsored by the organization formed specifically to act as a liaison between employers and Guard and Reserve members.

An agency within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was established in 1972.

The organization works to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers.

They also assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR's mission is to obtain employer and community support to ensure the availability and readiness of Reserve forces.

"It seems as if the ESGR works hard for us but does not get a large amount of fanfare," said Master

Sgt. Brian M. Blaquiére, a security forces flight commander. "During the luncheon, they were able to show how they were working for us by reminding employers that we play an important role in protecting our country."

Blaquiére continued, "There was no doubt when we left the luncheon that if we needed help either as a guardsman or as an employer, we can call the ESGR for assistance."



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Mitchell, 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Staff Sgt. Kenneth J. White (right) discusses the maintenance of an F-15 Eagle with his civilian supervisor, John Bannon, during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program at the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Feb. 11. White, an aircraft inspector for Delta Airlines in Tampa, was called to duty with the Florida Air National Guard in January and lauded the support from Delta during his activation.

125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, briefed the guests about the wing's involvement in Operation Noble Eagle and previous combat missions. The employers also watched a video showcasing what the 125<sup>th</sup> and other FLANG units have done since Sept. 11.

"I think all of the employers learned more about what we do," said Senior Master Sgt. Phillip M. Gainey, a human resource advisor for the 125<sup>th</sup>.

## In the Spotlight...

### Master Sgt. Brian M. Blaquiere

Blaquiere is a Security Forces flight commander with more than 15 years experience. He was activated in September 2001 and has since assumed the roles of Flight Operations Non Commissioned Officer In Charge, Resource Protection NCOIC as well as the role of Wing security manager. Even though he has many new responsibilities, Blaquiere welcomes the challenge.

"It's a little intimidating, however, with the leadership training that I've received through the Professional Military Academies, the 15 years experience out here plus my nine years of civilian law enforcement, it's manageable."

A homicide detective for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Blaquiere resides in Jacksonville with his wife, Monica, and son, Hunter. He joined the guard in 1986 to get a taste of the military without going on active duty.

Blaquiere also said he knew that getting experience through the police academy and on the drill side would catapult his career in law enforcement.

The most memorable moment for Blaquiere in the Guard was "being selected as the top Law Enforcement Specialist (1995) for the Guard nationwide," he said.



*Photo by Senior Airman Lee O. Tucker*

Master Sgt. Brian M. Blaquiere (right) briefs Staff Sgt. John C. Rollyson on the next weeks schedule. As Flight Operations NCOIC, Blaquiere ensures that flight commanders get the information they need to effectively run day-to-day security operations.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas*

Technical Sgt. Lori A. Ploessl reviews ancillary training spreadsheets with Senior Airman Jason Tilson, a 125th Operations Group information management technician. Ploessl and Tilson also prepare orders for the operations group personnel including the pilots who are flying Combat Air Patrol missions for Operation Noble Eagle.

### Tech. Sgt. Lori A. Ploessl

Ploessl, an orderly room technician for the Wing, joined the FANG in October 2001.

She has over ten years of military experience and currently works full-time in information management for the 125th Operations Group as part of Operation Noble Eagle.

Described by her co-workers as meticulous and determined, Ploessl takes her job seriously.

"She is a bundle of energy," said Master Sgt. Patty D. Hinton, 125th Fighter Wing first sergeant. "From the moment she gets here until the time she leaves in the afternoon, Tech. Sgt. Ploessl never stops working."

The most memorable day for the married mother of two was the day she arrived at the 125th.

"The people here were so friendly. Master Sgt. Hinton showed me around and made a point to introduce me to everyone," said Ploessl. "It just seemed that it is really important to the people here that newcomers feel welcome."

# Whitehead named 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. of the Year

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas,  
125<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs*

For most of his life, Master Sgt. Tony L. Whitehead, 37, grew up without a father figure. His mother, Sarah, worked long hours, as do many mothers in charge of single-parent households, at a Baptist hospital to support him and his seven siblings.

When it came time to take a vacation, each year instead of taking the well-deserved time off, she 'cashed in' her vacation time and used the money to buy Christmas gifts for her family.

"Although we never realized she did that until we were much older, I think that was the first time I learned what it meant to put others needs ahead of your own," said Whitehead.

Whitehead is the first sergeant for the 125<sup>th</sup> Support Group. He knows all too well what it means to put 'service before self' and is being recognized for it.

Florida Air National Guard leadership in St. Augustine, Fla., recently named

Whitehead 1st Sgt. of the Year for the entire Florida Air National Guard.

A first sergeant since Oct. 2000, he will represent Florida by competing for 1st Sgt. of the Year at the national level.

Whitehead handles the responsibilities for the 125<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight, Services Flight and the Mission Support Flight. He was nominated because of his dedication to the people he represents as well as his 'service before self' demeanor.

In July 2001, while deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany during Operation Road Warrior II, the newly trained first sergeant "jumped in feet first" by going out of his way to ensure all enlisted members in his charge as well as those in subordinate units without first sergeant representation were cared for, according to Lt. Col. Stephen N. Fields, 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing executive officer. "He has a heart for the job,

the mission and most importantly—the people," said Fields. "What else could any unit ask for? He's earned my total respect and admiration."

A Jacksonville native, he has more than 16 years of military service. In his civilian job, he is regional manager of a financial firm.

Whitehead joined the Air Force Dec. 3, 1982 as a security policeman. Six years later, while stationed at Kadena AB, Okinawa Japan he was notified that his mother, the person whose sacrifices would later influence his future as a first sergeant, was diagnosed with bone cancer. After four years of fighting the disease, doctors

told Whitehead, who was stationed at Howard AFB, Panama, she would only live six more months. In order to spend as much time as he could with her, he separated from active duty in 1992.

"I felt that part of the very foundation of my existence was about to leave," said Whitehead. "I decided the best thing to do was to separate and spend whatever time I had available with her."

He returned to the military in April 1994 and enlisted in the Florida Air National Guard. While assigned to the 125<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, he was the Bravo Flight's Awards and Decorations Monitor and Enlisted Training Manager. When presented the opportunity to become a first sergeant, Whitehead, already a

master sergeant at the time, accepted the challenging position even though it did not come with a promotion.

"I saw becoming a first sergeant as a wonderful opportunity to challenge myself as a professional and as a person," he said. "There is tremendous growth potential."

And, with 2002 slated as the Year of Diversity, Whitehead believes that the emphasis on diversity will highlight the already diverse, positive working environments here at the 125<sup>th</sup>.

"Diversity is something that I see everyday. It is the norm here," said Whitehead. "Some people may not agree. We have people from all walks of life that gel together and I think many of the unique talents people have are recognized regardless of race or gender."



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

Master Sgt. Tony L. Whitehead, first sergeant for the 125<sup>th</sup> Support Group, discusses student flight pay issues with Staff Sgt. Tanja L. Canady, a personnel technician with the 125<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Flight.

## Promotions, Enlistments and Retirements

### Congratulations

#### To Colonel

Jeanette B. Booth  
Alan K. Rutherford

#### To Major

Richard E. Bittner  
Kevin T. Cotton  
Steven R. Hilsdon  
Michael A. Prinzi, Jr.  
Barry D. Wilkes

#### To First Lieutenant

Williams R. Cannon  
Brian A. Vitetta

#### To Chief Master Sergeant

Ralph T. Kirkland

David A. Long

#### To Senior Master Sergeant

Sherry M. Evans

James Smith

#### To Master Sergeant

Henry J. Bryant  
James D. Lang  
Robert L. Pike  
Stephen G. Rogers  
Scott F. Schwertfager  
Gretchen L. Sherwood  
Cheryl A. Shodd  
Doris L. Taylor  
Shaun W. Withers  
To Technical Sergeant  
Dionne C. Adams

Christian M. Baetens  
James R. Burns  
Kenneth W. Butler  
Teresa E. Cooper  
Peggy T. Delgado  
Albert W. Howard  
Jennifer D. Jordan  
Jose L. Lopez  
Glenn J. McCain  
Gregory N. MacDonald  
Jerry W. Merritt  
Lori A. Ploessl  
Rene Quintanilla  
Lydia E. Rodriguez  
Douglas J. Shvonski  
To Staff Sergeant  
Lindsey R. Atchison  
Claudette L. Baldt  
Jack L. Bledsoe  
Tanja L. Canady  
Stephen E. Green  
William J. Floyd  
Arthur R. Harris  
Jeremy C. Hoort  
Teresa E. Logan  
John V. Mortenson  
Melvyn V. Nieves  
James E. Peters  
Liesl M. Powers  
Hannah E. Rogish  
John C. Rollyson

Cecil R. Wright

#### To Senior Airman

Crystal D. Collum  
Jaron J. Howell  
James G. Kolaras  
Nicholas A. McCorkle  
Paul E. McDaniel  
Shauna N. Miles  
Jonathon W. Morales  
Brian A. Myers  
Deva Pritchett  
Christopher L. Simons  
Shannon E. Smith  
Royce R. Walker  
Errol E. White

#### To Airman 1st Class

Richard Vandersteen

### Farewell

Lt. Col. John D. Fablinger  
Lt. Col. Larry E. Elliott  
Lt. Col. Donald E. McCoy  
MSgt. Kenneth B. Overstreet

### Welcome

Maj. James R. Kriesel  
1st Lt. Brian A. Vitetta  
1st Lt. Amy Dean  
MSgt Debra French  
TSgt James R. Becker  
TSgt Gregory N. MacDonald  
TSgt Anthony Maldonado

SSgt John N. Byers  
SSgt Ever M. Garaychavez  
SSgt Steven W. Greening  
SSgt Patrick D. Pirkle  
SSgt Kevin J. Pontier  
SSgt Liesl M. Powers  
SSgt Andrew L. White  
SSgt Christopher E. White  
SRA Phillip J. Kelly  
SRA Norman M. Knuckle  
SRA William A. Meyers, II  
SRA Hongan C. Pham  
SRA Michael S. Rosario  
SRA Jondra L. Smith  
A1C Erin K. Baldwin  
A1C Aaron P. Chasse  
A1C Ivan G. Correa  
A1C Kenneth M. Creager  
A1C Jordan M. Dailey  
A1C Justin L. Elliott  
A1C Daniel H. Gartland  
A1C Christina M. Gordon  
A1C Samuel J. Gordon  
A1C David M. Hickey  
A1C Crystal L. Kincade  
A1C Jimmie L. Lee  
A1C Amy S. Lounsbury  
A1C Richard P. Watts  
AMN Kimberly M. Smith  
AB Alexandra D. Figueroa

Photo by Col. Joseph K. Martin

## Florida Air National Guard Retiree's Association

Dear Fellow Retirees:

The April dinner has been changed to May 10, 2002 because of conflicting schedules for Jack Stuart and me. I hope you will mark the change and be able to make the new date. Naval Air Station Jax club is still under renovation so we will meet at the Orange Park Holiday Inn.

The menu will be tossed garden salad, fresh fruit salad, white rice and a choice of seafood Newburg or herb roasted chicken. Additional vegetables are baked potatoes and green beans almandine. Dessert choices are key lime pie and coconut cream pie. The cost is \$23.00 per person. We do not have a speaker and I am open to any suggestions or requests. I had hoped to have the new Adjutant General speak but he will be at another function down state.

Our Heritage project at Camp Blanding is slightly behind schedule mostly due to cool temperatures and busy schedules. We hope to have several workdays to get the red paint off of the tail and get the rest cleaned and sanded

for painting that has to be done before the pipe is welded inside the engine bay. Don Barnhart, Fred Dunkley, Jack Stuart and several others have made great strides with the memorials. It is really looking good. If you have not been to Camp Blanding lately, the guard gate and fence are being moved so the public can go to the museum and displays without going on base. There is still a lot to be done and your help is greatly appreciated. Jack Stuart is your best contact for schedules of workdays.

I also want to invite and encourage all retired officers, Army and Air, to attend the Retired Officers Conference at Camp Blanding April 25 -28, 2002. It is sure to be a fun weekend. If you need any information on it, call me at 724-8782.

Hope to see you at the dinner May 10.

Ernie Webster  
President, FLANGRA  
724-8782  
Eweb34@aol.com

**LEST WE FORGET...**

**DEC. 7, 1941**

**SEPT. 11, 2001**

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

## ***The Eagle's Eye***

***Florida Air National Guard***

***125th Fighter Wing (ACC)***

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